

Agenda Item No: 11
Report To: **AUDIT COMMITTEE**



Date: **5 MARCH 2013**

Report Title: **2011-2012 Annual Governance Statement – progress on remedying highlighted significant areas of governance**

Report Author: Paul Naylor, Deputy Chief Executive

Summary:

This short paper follows on from the report to the September meeting of the committee and explains progress against the one area for continued work which was included in the Annual Governance Statement agreed by the committee at the September meeting. This highlighted matter: continued work to improve the council's partnership governance arrangements following a review of the principles of good partnership governance during 2012.

Key Decision: Not applicable

Affected Wards: None specifically

Recommendations: **The Audit Committee is asked to:**

- 1. Note progress made in improving the council's governance arrangements, with emphasis on the publishing of information related to the Ashford Locality Board.**

Policy Overview: Good standards of corporate governance are essential in all organisations. The council's arrangements are longstanding, well-developed and generally are found to be effective. The annual governance statement is the opportunity to review any need for change or further work. Areas highlighted are important to consider in the context of a changing policy and operating landscape, given legislative change and downward pressures on resources.

Financial Implications: None

Risk Assessment The annual review of the governance statement amounts to an assessment of the adequacy of the council's overall arrangements to the management of governance and risk.

Equalities Impact Assessment Not applicable to this report

Other Material Implications: None

Background Papers: 2010-2011 Annual Governance Statement

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areas of governance**

Purpose of the report

1. To explain progress with reviewing the one area of significant governance highlighted by the 2011-2012 annual governance statement.

Issue to decided

2. Members are being asked to note progress.

Significant areas of governance requiring review

3. One area were highlighted in the June 2010-2011 Annual Governance Statement as continuing to need work in relation to a wider review of good partnership principles during 2012.

A) *Improving the council's partnership governance arrangements*

Progress: The 2012 review of good governance principles related to the council's strategic partnerships highlighted the overall status of governance arrangements, whilst identifying areas where further progress was needed to improve effectiveness and openness. In particular, the current arrangements for the publication of minutes and agendas of the Ashford Locality Board were seen to be in need of review.

A paper was submitted to the meeting of the Ashford Locality Board on 23rd January 2013 detailing arrangements for publication schemes by some other Locality Boards around Kent. The Ashford Locality Board felt that, in terms of openness and transparency, it would probably be beneficial to publish the agendas and minutes of the Board, but that KCC should be tasked with further research prior to confirmation that this will happen.

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